United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh Security Message for U.S. Citizens

October 17, 2015

This message provides an update regarding the continued threat against foreigners. As advised in previous Security Messages for U.S. Citizens, reliable information suggests that a terrorist attack could occur against Westerners in Bangladesh, including attacks against large gatherings of Westerners at international hotels.

ISIL claimed responsibility for the September 28 killing of an Italian national and the October 3 killing of a Japanese national. Future attacks against Westerners may occur, including against U.S. citizens. Security agencies in Bangladesh have taken extraordinary measures to increase security for foreigners in Bangladesh, but the terrorist threat remains real and credible.

The Embassy strongly encourages U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bangladesh to take precautions, remain vigilant about their personal security, and be alert to local security developments. Embassy employees continue to observe careful security practices when traveling throughout Bangladesh. U.S. government personnel and their families are not permitted to be in most public places and are also prohibited from traveling on foot, motorcycle, bicycle, rickshaw or other uncovered means on all public thoroughfares and sidewalks. They are also restricted from attending large gatherings in Bangladesh, including events at international hotels, unless they have obtained permission from the Embassy's security office.

For further information:

- See the <u>State Department's travel website</u> for the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and <u>Country Specific Information</u>.
- Enroll in the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the <u>U.S. Embassy in Dhaka</u>, Bangladesh, located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, at (88) (02) 5566-2000, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. Weekends and After-hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is (88) (02) 5566-2000 and press "0" and ask for the duty officer.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
- Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh